

# 2018 Municipal Election

## Candidate Responses

### To Chamber Member's Questions

#### We asked, they responded...

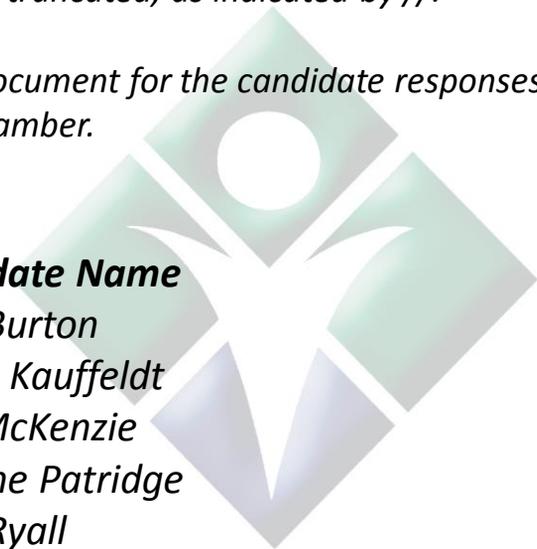
*Earlier this month, we asked our members for feedback on what questions they had for their candidates related specifically to business issues. We synthesized these into five main questions covering the themes of: Economic Development, Year-round Prosperity, Housing, Internet and Cell Connectivity, and the Environment.*

*We posed these questions to all candidates running in the 2018 Municipal Election from each of the four municipalities in Haliburton County. Responses had to be less than 100 words, and would be posted as they were received with no edits. Any responses that exceed the 100-mark were truncated, as indicated by //.*

*Please see the following document for the candidate responses to each of the five questions posed by the Chamber.*

#### No Response from...

<b>Office:</b>	<b>Candidate Name</b>
Mayor:	Dave Burton
Ward 1:	Steven Kauffeldt Cam McKenzie
Ward 2:	Suzanne Patridge
Ward 3:	Cecill Ryall
Ward 4:	James Deterling Bradley Keller



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# Q1

*This year, the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce has initiated the #buycloseby project to enhance local business prosperity. In terms of economic development and business and community prosperity, what are your two main priorities for overall improvement on a short- and long-term basis?*

Mayor	Cheryl Ellis	<p>My first priority would be to identify and build on existing assets. In Highlands East we have lakes and trails so I believe by conserving and restoring them for outdoor recreation and tourism we can build a stronger, more diverse economy in Highlands East.</p> <p>Secondly I think it is important to engage all members of the community to plan for the future. My research tells me that communities that successfully build their economies engage residents, business owners, and other stakeholders to develop a vision for the community's future. Changes through election cycles often generate more public interest and support for //</p>
Ward 2	Jane Russell	<p>I believe we need to work to promoting more home based businesses. We also need to work towards helping the small businesses to grow.</p>
Ward 4	Peter Fredricks	<p>We are seeking a financial institution for Highlands East. In the short term "Square" has offered to provide a service for our businesses to use smart phones and do e-commerce. This allows our businesses to take payments for their services. The long term objective is to find a way for our community to provide a stable financial means for our businesses. In Highlands East I am committed to meet the demands of our growing population and the businesses in the area.</p> <p>Many of the people coming into this area are from larger urban centres and are used to the services.</p>
	Ruth Strong	<p>Encourage the business in the area to be competitive in price and in quality. Would removing the parking meters help to encourage shopping?</p>

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# Q2

*The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce wants to see every business prosperous year-round. If elected, what will your contributions be to support a healthy economy on a year-round basis, particularly in the off-season?*

Mayor	Cheryl Ellis	<p>My contribution would be to search and lobby any/all outside funding sources. With funding Highlands East could create incentives for redevelopment and possibly encourage investment in the community.</p> <p>I would like to identify and offer quality real-world training opportunities and programs for the small year round population here in Highlands East.</p>
Ward 2	Jane Russell	<p>This is very difficult to promote but if we work on promoting tourism for winter sports might help. Having snowmobile reports done on the city news stations along with news stations from Peterborough, Orillia and Barrie.</p>
Ward 4	Peter Fredricks	<p>At the Highlands East August's Council meeting the building department report that building permits have grown from 5 to 8 million. Construction is one of the biggest parts of our economy to sustain continuous work. This creates opportunities for our businesses, both supply and services also benefit as construction is year round. My commitment is to create a sustainable labour force, training of people both youth and retraining of able-bodied workers is key. In the long term I feel we need to create a training program and apprenticeship program to help create a sustainable supply of workers for our community.</p>
	Ruth Strong	<p>Perhaps good snowmobile and ATV Trails would help the winter economy, however this is depended on weather.</p>

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# Q3

*The feedback from member organizations of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce is that many businesses across the County are struggling with staff shortages, and that affordable housing is a significant barrier to bringing additional skilled workers to the area to fill these shortages. How will you address housing affordability and availability in this area, if elected?*

Mayor	Cheryl Ellis	<p>I would look for home ownership opportunities such as Houses for People. I know Houses for People had an interest in Highlands East in the past hopefully they could be encouraged to come back if we showed serious interest.</p> <p>David Mackay (Candidate Dysart et al Ward 2) has an excellent approach to addressing the housing problems in Dysart, by supporting secondary dwelling units. David explains them as “a second unit is a self-contained residential unit with a private kitchen, bathroom facilities and sleeping area within a dwelling or within structures ancillary to a dwelling such as above a garage.” I //</p>
Ward 2	Jane Russell	<p>Affordable housing in our area is a must for people of all ages. At this time I am not sure I have any answers for this question. But there has to be solutions out there and I will work towards finding them.</p>
Ward 4	Peter Fredricks	<p>Faye Martin’s speech at the HCDC AGM, Housing for the Middle. Her suggestions might in the long term provide solutions. As a full time resident and business person in Highlands East financing houses is key. We need to make our legislation and permit processes easier for developers to do business in our county. Creation of Tiny House Clusters, raising funds through municipal bonds is a possible solution to this challenge.</p> <p>Political will is the challenge; I am up for working with the municipalities through our county to help coordinate such an initiative.</p>
	Ruth Strong	<p>If elected I would look into affordable housing as to where houses could be built in the area, as I feel this is very important to bring skilled workers to the area.</p>

# 2018 Municipal Election Candidate Responses To Chamber Member's Questions

## Q4

*Businesses across the Highlands are dealing with a lack of service options with regards to internet and cell connectivity, with dead-zones and high-cost options being the norm in much of our County. This can be counter-productive to business success. If elected, what will you do to enhance internet and cell service availability across the County?*

Mayor	Cheryl Ellis	The internet and cell service has been an issue in Highlands East for more than a decade. I am not sure if it is a funding issue or lack of motivation, either way this is a problem that must be fixed. If it is a funding issue the CRTC has promised 70 million in funding for rural internet and cell service. If the application has not been started I would advise council of the urgency of filling this application.
Ward 2	Jane Russell	I would work towards improvement in this area. Home based businesses and small business need to have a full time working service to do business. Even for education we need to have the internet working properly. More students could do online studies to improve their skills which are needed in this area.
Ward 4	Peter Fredricks	My view is that in today's society communications is a necessary way for us to do business and communicate with our customers. I sit on the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council and posed this question to (EORN) The Eastern Ontario Regional Network, they say that the document for improving our cellular services is in the hands of the Provincial Government and when they sign off, the Federal Government will come to the table. This I have been told does not happen overnight, I will continue to work to see that this happens.
	Ruth Strong	I understand this services is arranged through the federal government and although no firm commitments are in place, EORN is hopeful to have a formal announcement by the end of Jan. 2019. Work can then begin on the RFP release for the actual network design. Once the reviews of the RFP are done the actual tower locations will be shared.

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# Q5

*Haliburton County is an area that is rich in natural beauty and resources – our clean waters and pristine wildlands are integral to our economy and to the success of many of our member organizations. If elected, how do you propose to maintain a balance between economic development and environmental sustainability?*

Mayor	Cheryl Ellis	<p>I would start by scheduling regular meetings with organizations and agencies involved in tourism to increase communications and share ideas.</p> <p>I believe working collaboratively with partners such as Snowmobile Clubs , Cottage Associations and task groups is the key maintaining a balance.</p>
Ward 2	Jane Russell	<p>I am not sure, it's a good question and its going to take a lot of research to find the right solution.</p>
Ward 4	Peter Fredricks	<p>In discussions with Dr. Norman Yan Phd. a retired water quality specialist the problem is what we are putting into our water system. Since water is our greatest asset, the Environmental Committee for Highlands East, of which I was a member has implemented the septic re-inspection program.</p> <p>Paul McGuiness, initiated a stewardship and naturalization of shoreline program. A number of lake associations wanted their lakes examined and a report for the best way to maintain sustainable water quality for their respective lakes.</p> <p>Funding these types of programs, to ensure water quality and protect our natural assets is necessary.</p>
	Ruth Strong	<p>While environmental sustainability is very critical we must understand we do need development to create jobs as not all residents in the county are retired. We do have young people who need to make a living. We need industry in the area keeping the environment in mind.</p>